Dear Paul, Harh

10/16/74

In order to be ready for any last-minute emergency I completed selecting the materials I'll be taking to Memphis tonight for the series of hearings beginning tomorrow, letting other work go to be prepared. This gives me time to report what I know interests you because I am certain Jim has not had the time.

I still do not have a copy of the book! I now expect delivery after we return from Memphis. As I told you long ago and you just wouldn't believe, when one can't shepherd these things by hand delays, often unpredictable, are certain. The work Jim and I had to do before going to Memphis, while we were there and after returning gave us no alternative.

Meanwhile, as of the end of last week, I think last Thursday, the TV interest was still active, still ~~lost~~ undecided and I suspect an agonizing between fear and desire. It is important enough to require patience. As soon as I could after returning from Memphis I was in touch. They are still, in their words, "checking." They have been unable to locate a man I could find by two phones calls, assuming the first was unsuccessful. So, I told them how. The great investigators of the U.S. press!

Also, the set of proofs mailed to the printed-press approach I had made for the sale of ancillary rights, essential to Jim's ability to pay back what he borrowed, was never received. This, too, is not as uncommon as the unsophisticated probably believe. It happened twice with Oswald in New Orleans and cost me the possibility of European publication and the contracted U.S. publication. I took time to check from Memphis, learned this, and made an offer that was certain to get a reporter sent here. It worked, I gave them the story I knew they'd go for, and had the reporter here to skim and take the one remaining set of proofs I had. He reported favorably from my phone and again we'll have to wait and see. He told his editor he could see three separate stories (as I had earlier written the same editor, who I know, and said I did, whether or not they are the same three and whether or not they come to pass).

What seems so slow to you and is to me actually is fast by normal standards. When this reporter, who spent Monday here, learned the time I received the transcript he was quite surprised to see proofs of a completed, indexed book. Little did he know how long ago it was completed and should have been rpinted.

With all of this Jim and I - alone - have had an extraordinary amount of work to do and what with my extensive experience with official bastards are the nasties bastards I've ever met to contend with, often separated by a thousand miles or so. We were, I believe, remarkably successful but we are under a "protective order" and can say nothing of substance. We have nullified all their last-minute nastiness that has come to a head except their going to the Supreme Court again, which can delay the hearings if we do not succeed there. The Glorious Leder of our team who did nothing when he was here managed to be on European vacation during all the time of this exceptional activity, so there were Jim and I alone, inside the enemy's camp, so to speak. We did come out alive and well armed. Perhaps more so because we were alone. It was an unusually trying part of a long-lasting and very trying time for both of us. In time enough of what we accomplished will be known. We were both beat when we got back. Jim had to go away for several days. Prior to Bud's return I drafted a series of position papers and suggestions on legal approaches and outlined all the testimony Jim will not present. I hope you can understand that this is a vast amount of emotionally-taxing work and that the time of the recent unpleasantness was during these endeavors.

I gave Bud on Sunday enough to end this business for us. It remains to be seen if he is equal to it. I did have this fully constructed for him and the law is our way, as are decisions he could not even remember and as late as yesterday, three days later, still did not have a copy of. Jim returned yesterday evening and has his materials to gather and organize for use in Memphis, a large task in itself. He'll have to make his final preparations there.

This is the reality of the life Jim and I live. You, without basis, simply didn't believe anything you were told. I'm sorry that you had faith in your invented fictions and what they led to. I don't know what you and Jim discussed but I do know the actualities. In your own interest I do hope you can come to confront the ethics and that you will please this alone so we can proceed as best we can. The book has yet to get out and we haven't even had time to send the art work to the wholesaler who will catalogue it. Sincerely,